

MARVEL



ROM

SPACEKNIGHT

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



PARANOIA
STRIKES
DEEP...



STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--**ROM!**

BILL
MANTLO
STORY

SAL
BUSCEMA
ART

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SIENKIEWICZ

JANICE
CHIANG
LETTERS

BEN
SEAN
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RALPH
MACCHIO
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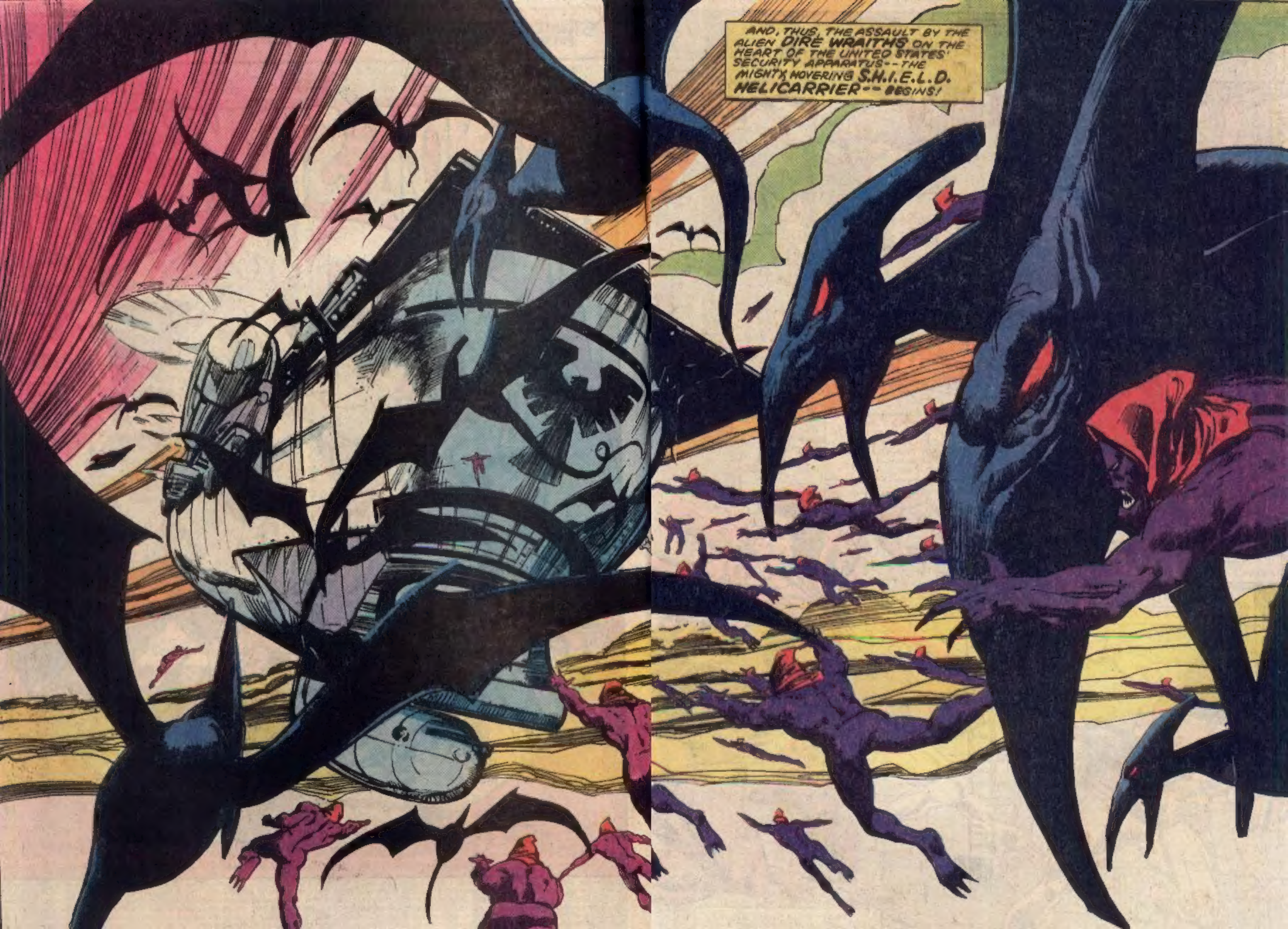
JIM
SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PARANOIA STRIKES DEEP!



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AND, THUS, THE ASSAULT BY THE
ALIEN DIRE WRAITHS ON THE
HEART OF THE UNITED STATES'
SECURITY APPARATUS--THE
MIGHTY HOVERING S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIER-- BEGINS!





WITHOUT, DEMON DEATHWINGS--
SORCEROUS SAURIAN SLAYERS--
BREATHE ELDRITCH FLAME,
BREACHING THE HELICARRIER'S
HULL.

WITHIN, S.H.I.E.L.D.
AGENTS FIND THEM-
SELVES ACCOSTED BY
PHANTASMAGORICAL
BEASTS-- EARTH
DOGS TRANSFORMED
INTO THE HELL HOUNDS
OF THE DARK NEBULA!

ABLE TO TURN
INTANGIBLE, THESE
ONCE-ANIMALS
PASS THROUGH
BOTH MAN AND
MACHINE...

...DISRUPTING THE VITAL
FUNCTIONS OF BOTH!

AND, WHILE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY
DOES PROVE CAPABLE OF KILLING THE
HELL HOUNDS IN THEIR TANGIBLE STATE...

... THAT IS A SLIM REED
ON WHICH TO STAKE THIS
STATION'S SURVIVAL!

CRIPES! THEY HIT US SO FAST WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TA SOUND A GENERAL ALERT!

YA KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, NICK? THAT THE REPORT OF THAT ALIEN-- THE SPACEKNIGHT, ROM-- THAT OTHER ALIENS HAD INFILTRATED EARTH...

SOUND BATTLE-STATIONS, BLAST IT ON THE OFF-CHANCE SOME OF OUR PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WE'VE BEEN INVADED!

...IS CONFIRMED!

DUGAN, AFTER THE TAPES I SAW OF THE WRAITHS' ATTACK ON THAT TOWN IN MARYLAND, I DIDN'T NEED NO CONFIRMATION!

BUT THEY MUST BE PRETTY BLAMED SURE OF THEMSELVES TO LAUNCH A DIRECT ASSAULT ON S.H.I.E.L.D.!

OLIM OLIM DUGAN KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT TO DO...

IS LAST ISN-- WRAITH RALPH.

LET'S GKAKE 'EM UP, YA OLD WALRUS!

...AND, ACTIVATING THE HELICARRIER'S DEFENSES, HE DOES IT TO PERFECTION!

VREET

VREET



LOOKS LIKE THE REPORTS I BEEN GETTIN' FROM GENERAL LOCKLIN AT PROJECT WRAITHWATCH PROVE OUT!

THESE WRAITHS CAN BE HURT-- KILLED!



NICE TA KNOW!



BUT SO CAN MY BOYS BE KILLED, AN' RIGHT NOW THEY'RE DYIN' IN PROVES!

NOT NICE!

SO IT'S ABOUT TIME I STARTED DOIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT!

LEMME MUZZLE THOSE FANGS, FIDO, 'FORE YA BITE SOMEBODY!



ROWRRR!

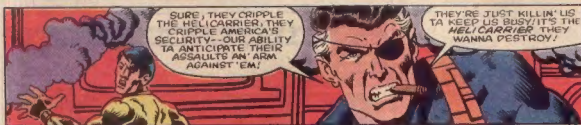
THOUGH THE OLD HOWLER'S PRESENCE GIVES COURAGE TO THE YOUNGER AGENTS IN HIS COMMAND, THE SITUATION REMAINS GRIM...

THE HELICARRIER'S FAILING FAST, COLONEL! THESE CREATURES MUST HAVE PENETRATED ITS POWER-DRIVE!

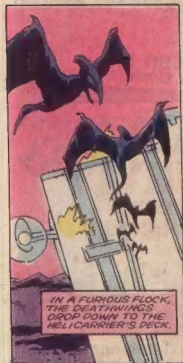


SURE, THEY CRIPPLE THE HELICARRIER, THEY CRIPPLE AMERICA'S SECURITY--OUR ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE THEIR ASSAULTS AN' ARM AGAINST 'EM!

THEY'RE JUST KILLIN' US TA KEEP US BUSY! IT'S THE HELICARRIER THEY WANNA DESTROY!



THERE, THEY SHIFT SHAPE, REVERTING TO THAT WHICH THEY REALLY ARE...



IN A FURIOUS FLOCK, THE DEATHWINGS DROP DOWN TO THE HELICARRIER'S DECK.



...DIRE WRAITH WITCHES!



THEN, GATHERING, THEY BEGIN TO WEAVE A SPELL TO UTTERLY DESTROY THE SHIP ON WHICH THEY STAND.

GOTTA SAVE THE SHIP--NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!



THE WRAITHS' SPELL SLAMS HARD INTO THE MIND OF EACH AND EVERY S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT, THOUGH ALL HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF TRAINING IN BLOCKING PSI-ASSAULTS, THEY SUCCEED TO THE HALLUCINOGENIC HORROR.



FWROOSH!

BUT THE HELICARRIER HAS ALREADY BEEN PROGRAMMED...



...AND, THRUSTERS ROARING, IT BEGINS ITS ENRAGED ASCE. TOWARDS THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE!



AND, ON THE HELICARRIER'S EXPOSED OUTER PECK...



C-COLD, SISTERS! WH-WHAT IS H-HAPPENING?

THE SHIP RISES TOWARDS SPACE! OUR SPELLS ARE UNABLE TO STOP IT!

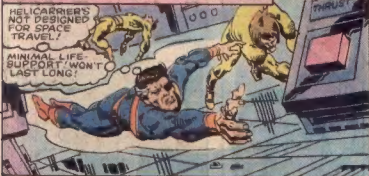
AND, IN THE FREEZING VACUUM OF SPACE...



NOT ALL THE WRAITHS' SORCEROUS SHAPE-SHIFTING CAN SAVE THEM!



BUT THE SAME DANGER THAT IMPERILS WRAITHKIND ALSO SPELLS DEATH FOR S.N.I.E.L.D., UNLESS...



HELICARRIERS NOT DESIGNED FOR SPACE TRAVEL!

MINIMAL LIFE SUPPORT! WON'T LAST LONG!

GOTTA GET US HOME!



THE CRAFT PLUMMETS, SET AFIRE AS IT SCRAPES AGAINST THE ATMOSPHERE...



THOSE WRAITHS NOT FROZEN BY THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE...



... ARE NOW FIRED BY THE FRICTION UPON REENTRY!



CRIPPLED-- BUT INTACT-- THE HELICARRIER FINALLY LEVELS OFF...



WE MADE IT-- BUT IT COST US!

AN' NOW WE KNOW THE WRAITHS ARE EVERY BIT THE THREAT ROM SAYS THEY ARE!

THAT IS THE MESSAGE
COLONEL NICHOLAS FURY
OF THE SUPREME HEAD-
QUARTERS INTERNATIONAL
ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCE-
MENT DIVISION SOON
CARRIES TO HIS COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF... THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES!

I ADMIT I HAD
MY DOUBTS ABOUT
THE SPACEKNIGHT'S
STORY AT THE FIRST,
MR. PRESIDENT.

BUT, HAVIN'
HAD T' FIGHT THE
WRAITHS FIRST,
HAND--

-- I DON'T DOUBT
ANYTHIN' 'ROM HAS
T' SAY ANY MORE!

WE APPRECIATE
YOUR REPORT... AND YOUR
CANDOR... COLONEL FURY.





THE QUESTION REMAINS... NOW THAT WE ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE, INDEED, ALIEN INVADERS INFILTRATING OUR EARTH-- WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

NUKE THE SPACE-SCUM!

THE SPACE-SCUM AS YOU CALL THESE DIRE WRAITHS, GENERAL, ARE HIDDEN AMONG OUR OWN POPULACE.

SURELY YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARFARE AGAINST THEM ON AMERICAN SOIL?

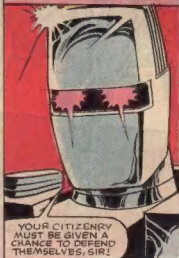


OBVIOUSLY, THAT'S NOT A VIABLE OPTION.

BUT WE MUST STOP THE PANIC THAT'S SETTING IN ACROSS THE COUNTRY THE LONGER THIS WRAITH THREAT DRAGS ON.

SO THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT DO WE DO?

REALIZING THAT HE IS IN THE PRESENCE OF A MAN WHO SERVES, IN EFFECT, AS THE PRIME DIRECTOR OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON THE FACE OF EARTH, ROM OF GALADOR CHOOSES HIS WORDS WITH CAUTION...



YOUR CITIZENRY MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, SIR!

THE FIERY STARSHINE, FORMERLY BRANDY CLARK OF CLAIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA, HAS SEEN TOO MUCH TRAGEDY, TOO MUCH DEATH, TO MINCE HER WORDS...



THE WRAITHS HAVE ALREADY ATTACKED US, MR. PRESIDENT!

DECLARED OR NOT, WE'RE ALREADY EXISTING IN A STATE OF WAR!



I GOTTA AGREE WITH THE GOLDEN GAL, MR. PRESIDENT.

THE ENEMY'S ALREADY HURT US. WE GOTTA START HURTIN' 'EM BACK!



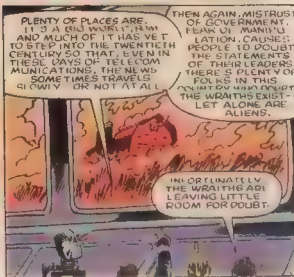
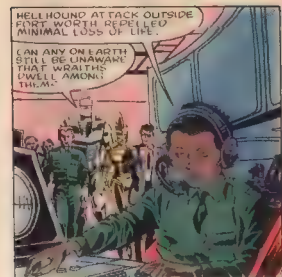
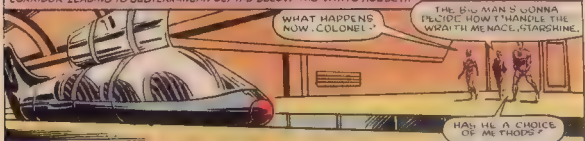
THESE DIRE WRAITHS AREN'T THE ENEMY I'D EXPECTED TO HAVE TO FIGHT WHEN I WAS ELECTED.

WE CAN'T ALWAYS PICK OUR WARS, MR. PRESIDENT.

I GUESS NOT. CONTACT THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE AND HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES.

AT ONCE, SIR.

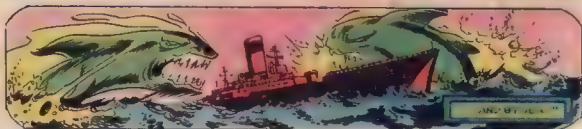
LEAVING THE PRESIDENT TO PREPARE HIS ADDRESS, ROM AND STARSHINE FOLLOW NICK FURY DOWN A CORRIDOR LEADING TO SUBTERRANEAN DEPTHS BELOW THE WHITE HOUSE...



"--AS THEY SORCEROUSLY
STRIKE AT EVERY NATION
ON EARTH--"



"--RAISING THE SPECTERS OF PLAGUE,
PESTILENCE AND PERIL, STRIKING BOTH
BY LAND--"



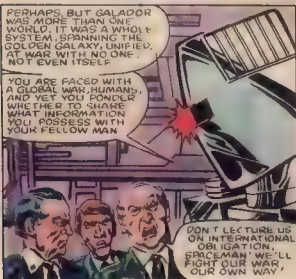
AS IT WAS
ON GALADOR, SO
SHALL IT BE ON
EARTH



YOUR WORLD
BEAT THEM, ROM--
SO SHALL MINE.

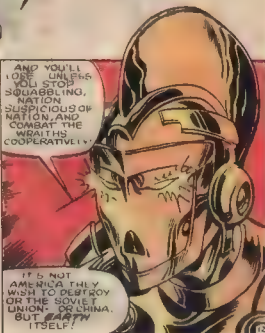
PERHAPS, BUT GALADOR
WAS MORE THAN ONE
WORLD. IT WAS A WHOLE
SYSTEM, SPANNING THE
GOLDEN GALAXY, UNIFIED,
AT WAR WITH NO ONE,
NOT EVEN ITSELF

YOU ARE FACED WITH
A GLOBAL WAR, HUMANS,
AND YET YOU PONDER
WHETHER TO SHAKE
WHAT INFORMATION
YOU POSSESS WITH
YOUR FELLOW MAN

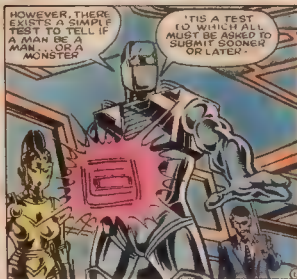
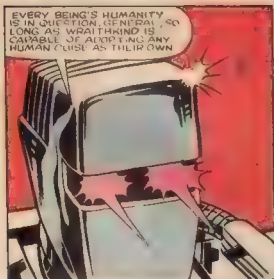
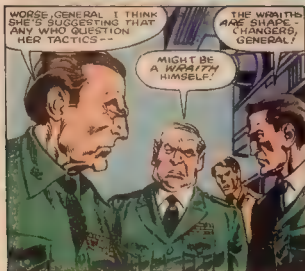
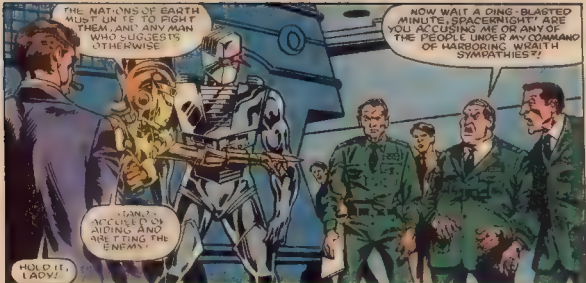


DON'T LECTURE US
ON INTERNATIONAL
OBLIGATION,
SPACE MAN. WE'LL
FIGHT OUR WAR,
OUR OWN WAY.

AND YOU'LL
LOSE UNLESS
YOU STOP
SQUABBLING,
NATION
SUSPICIOUS OF
NATION, AND
COMBAT THE
WRAITHS
COOPERATIVELY.



IT'S NOT
AMERICA THEY
WISH TO DESTROY
OR THE SOVIET
UNION. OR CHINA.
BUT EARTH
ITSELF.

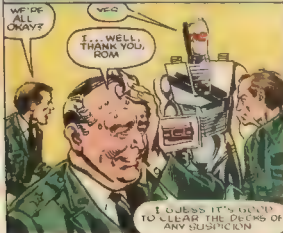


--SO LET YOUR
TIME, GENERAL,
BE NOW!

THE CRIMSON CARESS OF ROM'S
ENERGY ANALYZER AT ONCE
DISPELS ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE
HUMANITY OF THOSE IT TOUCHES



... AND MOMENTARY TERROR TURNS TO SIGHS
OF RELIEF AS ALL ASSEMBLED STAND ASSURED
THAT NO ALIEN ENEMY WALKS AMONG THEM.



WE'D
ALL
OKAY?

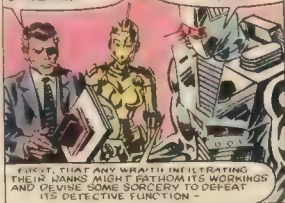
YES

I... WELL,
THANK YOU,
ROM

I GUESS IT'S GOOD
TO CLEAR THE DECKS OF
ANY SUSPICION

PARANOIA'S SURE
STRIKIN' DEEP THESE
DAYS ANY WAY WE
COULD ORDER UP A
FEW MILLION O'
THOSE GIZMOS,
SPACEMAN

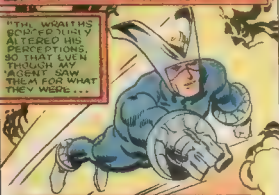
ONLY TWO THINGS CAUSE
ME TO HESITATE
BEFORE OFFERING MY
ENERGY ANALYZER
TO YOUR SCIENTISTS
FOR DUPLICATION,
COLONEL



FIRST, THAT ANY WRAITH INFILTRATING
THEIR RANKS MIGHT PATHOIN ITS WORKINGS
AND DEVISE SOME SORCERY TO DEFEAT
ITS DETECTIVE FUNCTION -

"-- AND THE FACT THAT I ONCE ARMED
ANOTHER WITH AN ANALYZER GENERATED
WRAITH DETECTOR VISION

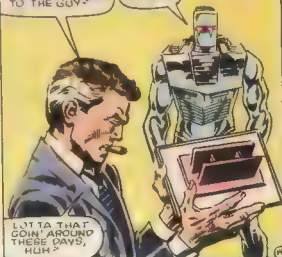
"THE WRAITHS
BOOED LULU
ALTERED HIS
PERCEPTIONS,
SO THAT EVEN
THOUGH MY
'AGENT' SAW
THEM FOR WHAT
THEY WERE ...



"... THE EVIDENCE OF HIS EYES WAS
NEVER ACCEPTED BY HIS MIND."

WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE GUY?

HE DIED



LOT TA THAT
GOIN' AROUND
THESE DAYS,
HUH?

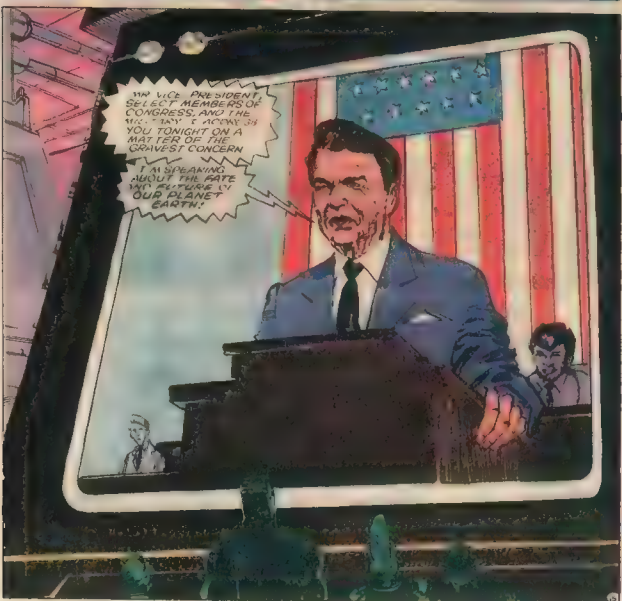
AN' I SUSPECT THERE'LL
BE A LOT MORE, UNLESS
EARTH GETS ITS ACT
TOGETHER... FAST



LET'S
SEE WHAT THE
PRESIDENT
HAS T'SAY ABOUT
THAT WITH THIS
SPECIAL CLOSED
CIRCUIT
BROADCAST



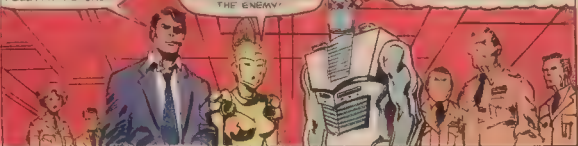
MR VICE PRESIDENT,
SELECT MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS, AND THE
MILITARY ARE WITH ME
TODAY ON A
MATTER OF THE
GRAVEST CONCERN
I AM SPEAKING
ABOUT THE FATE
AND FUTURE OF
OUR PLANET
EARTH.



OKAY LOOKS LIKE
HE'S NOT PLANNIN' TO
PULL ANY PUNCHES

THE SOONER WAR'S
DECLARED, THE SOONER
CAN EARTH ARM AGAINST
THE ENEMY

THIS IS NOT MY WORLD, AND YET
MY CYBORG SOUL CRIES FOR THIS
PEARL OF A PLANET



LATELY, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS
IN THE MEDIA OF... ATTACKS... OF FIGHTING
ON AMERICAN SOIL

-- BETWEEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS
AND SOME SINISTER, SORCEROUS
ENEMY FROM OUTER SPACE

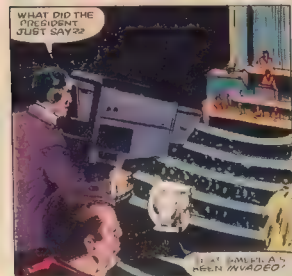


SOME OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL
MEMBERS HAVE DISMISSED
THOSE REPORTS OR ELSE
CONTACTED THE WHITE HOUSE
FOR CONFIRMATION

I AM HERE TONIGHT
TO TELL YOU... THOSE
REPORTS ARE TRUE!



WHAT DID THE
PRESIDENT
JUST SAY??

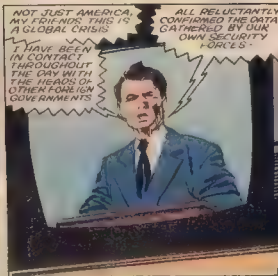


THE AMERICANS
HAVE BEEN INVADOED

NOT JUST AMERICA,
MY FRIENDS. THIS IS
A GLOBAL CRISIS

I HAVE BEEN
IN CONTACT
THROUGHOUT
THE DAY WITH
THE HEADS OF
OTHER FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS

ALL RELUCTANTLY
CONFIRMED THE DATA
GATHERED BY OUR
OWN SECURITY
FORCES



"-- THAT THERE IS SCARCELY A NATION ON EARTH THAT HAS NOT, IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, BEEN SUBJECT TO SOME FORM OF ASSAULT FROM OUR ALIEN ENEMY

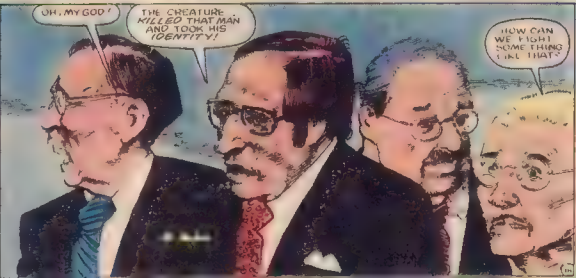
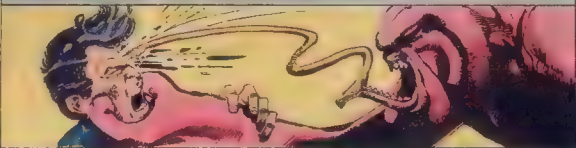


"WHO IS OUR Foe? WHENCE DOES SHE HAIL? ONE WHO KNOWS HER TACTICS WELL CALLS HER *DIRE WRAITH*-- A CREATURE FROM A FAR STAR SYSTEM KNOWN AS THE DREAD DARK NEBULA-- POSSESSED OF SORCEROUS SKILL AND MIGHTY MAGIC CAPABLE OF ASSUMING ANY SHAPE, OF DISGUISSING HERSELF AS HUMAN AND WALKING THIEF AMONG US.



" UNTIL REVEALING HER TRUE FORM IN THE MOMENT HER TERROR IS UNLEASHED!"

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS INTERSPERSED WITH DRAMATIZATIONS, BASED ON VISUALIZATIONS WOVEN FROM THE LIVING LIGHT WIELDED BY THE SPACENIGHT STARSHINE, DEPICTING DIRE WRAITHS IN THE ACT OF ASSUMING HUMAN FORM



OH, MY GOD!

THE CREATURE
KILLED THAT MAN
AND TOOK HIS
IDENTITY!

HOW CAN
WE FIGHT
SOME THING
LIKE THAT?

OF COURSE IF THE NATION AS A WHOLE BECAME AWARE OF THE DIRE WRAITH MENACE--PAIN WOULD BE WIDESPREAD NONE OF THIS MUST REACH THE PUBLIC THROUGH REPUTABLE GOVERNMENT SOURCES OR THE SITUATION WOULD BE UNMANAGEABLE EVEN THE SMALL INFORMATION



RELEASED BY THE NEWS MEDIA HAS CREATED FEAR AND SUSPICION, DESPITE THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE TWO SPACEKNIGHTS WHO SPOKE TO NEWSMEN."

THE PUBLIC, IN PART, HAS REACTED TO THE MEDIA'S REPORT WITH SKEPTICISM AND SOME DISBELIEF

I UNDERSTAND THE SHOCK MY MESSAGE MUST BE CAUSING. SHOCK IS UNAVOIDABLE. WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US ALL NOW, IS TO OVERCOME THIS SHOCK AND PREPARE TO DEFEND OUR RACE, OUR VERY WORLD



TO THAT END, I HAVE ENTERED INTO A TREATY UNPRECEDENTED IN THE ANNALS OF MANKIND--AN AGREEMENT SIGNED AT THIS JUNCTURE, BY NEARLY EVERY NATION ON EARTH, A MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT WHEREIN WE HAVE TEMPORARILY, AND FOR THIS MATTER ONLY, SET ASIDE OUR GEOPOLITICAL DIFFERENCES--

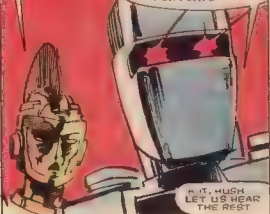
* SEE LAST ISSUE FOR DETAILS

AND HAVE AGREED TO UNITE IN DEFENSE AGAINST AN ALIEN ENEMY FROM OUR WORLD



FROM, WE'VE JUST WITNESSED HISTORY BEING MADE

TIG IS A GLORIOUS DAY, STARSHINE... BUT SAD THAT IT TOOK THE THREAT OF DESTRUCTION TO UNITE THE RACES OF MAN, RATHER THAN THEIR DESIRE FOR PEACE

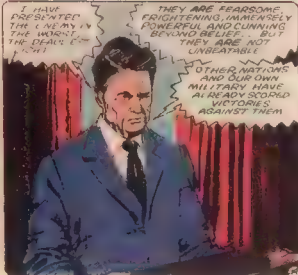


IT, HUSH LET US HEAR THE REST

I HAVE PRESENTED THE ENEMY IN THE WORST, THE DEADLIEST LIGHT

THEY ARE FEARSOME, FRIGHTENING, IMMENSELY POWERFUL AND CUNNING BEYOND BELIEF... BUT THEY ARE NOT UNBEATABLE

OTHER NATIONS AND OUR OWN MILITARY HAVE ALREADY SCORED VICTORIES AGAINST THEM



Bullpen Bulletins

"...MARVEL'S DARKEST HOUR!"

That's what one guy from Old City, Pennsylvania, called our recent Assistant Editors' Month. On the other hand, a correspondent from Tulsa, Oklahoma thought that the assistants "...should trade jobs with the Editors! They're more imaginative!" No one's been shy about commenting, that's for sure. We've gotten record amounts of mail regarding That Weird Month, and everywhere I go, people mention it to me. An officer at the Manufacturers Hanover Trust, where I have my savings account, walked up to me in the bank the other day and gave me his opinion — he loved it! While I was in Florida visiting the wonderful folks at Adventure International, a computer game designer named John Anderson and the company's founder, Scott Adams, himself (who is to computer gaming what Stan Lee is to comics) brought it up — two more positive reactions. Letters are still pouring in, and it's too early to render the final verdict, though. Meanwhile, the Assistant Editors are slinking around here like turkeys the week before Thanksgiving...

EVERYONE'S WONDERING...

...just what it was that all the Marvel Editors were doing that kept them away during August, creating the need for Assistant Editors' Month in the first place.

Well, it was strictly business... sort of. Here's what we did...

Sunday evening, July 31st — We arrived in San Diego, picked up our four Chrysler LeBaron convertibles from Hertz, and checked into the luxurious Executive Hotel.

Monday, August 1st — Brunch in the hotel restaurant. All are present and accounted for: Myself, Tom DeFalco, Denny O'Neil, Larry Hama, Louise Jones, Mark Gruenwald, Ralph Macchio, Bob Budiansky, Carl Potts, Danny Fingeroth, and official photographer Vince Colletta. We plan strategy. At 12:30 p.m. we drive to

Night and Day Formal Wear in Fashion Valley to pick up our tuxedos. Spider-Man joins us and clowns around trying on jackets and cummerbunds over his Spider-Man suit. Who is this guy? At 3:00 p.m. we head for Mission Beach. An unexpected interruption — we're pulled over by two San Diego motorcycle policemen. They want to know why Spider-Man's in town. We talk. They end up cheerfully giving old web-head a ride on one of their motorcycles. On the beach at last, we hold an Official Business Meeting in the surf to discuss the upcoming Sub-Mariner Limited Series. It does enhance the mood. Meanwhile Spider-Man is mobbed by civilians on the beach until he finally disappears again. Later, we meet for dinner at La Casa Bandini, a superb Mexican restaurant, in The Old Town.



Tuesday, August 2nd — Brunch again, then clad in our tuxes we motor off to Sea-world. We make our way to the penguin house where, again, Spider-Man mysteriously appears. In our penguin-like attire, surrounded by penguins, we meet to discuss the upcoming Iceman Limited Series. Again, the mood is enhanced. Spider-Man, meanwhile, as at the beach, is mobbed. Eventually, to prevent his being literally crushed by admirers, he ducks into a nearby building and vanishes! Who is this guy in the webbed suit? That evening, Publishing Vice President Mike Hobson, who's also in town, gathers us up and takes us off to a fantastic meal on the Reuben E. Lee, a riverboat restaurant floating in San Diego Harbor. Mike, a glibbie guy, seems to be convinced that our "meetings" thus far are serious business, indeed. But, is he really convinced?

Wednesday, August 3rd — Brunch, and then off to the beach at Coronado, where we take lots of photos and Carl Potts

teaches us how to body surf. That evening, some of us go out to an elegant Italian dinner while the rest chow down at Taco Bell and roar off to a drive-in movie.

Thursday, August 4th — Brunch. Then, the San Diego Comic-Con begins at the San Diego Convention Center. Archie Goodwin and Allan Milgrim, the last of our crew, finally arrive. Now, with every single Marvel editor present, we sit en masse at the snazzy Marvel booth in the main room answering questions and reviewing portfolios. Later, Tom DeFalco, Ralph Macchio, and Vince Colletta head for the airfield — we've hired a plane to fly above the city trailing a banner that reads "MARVEL COMICS — THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!" and they're going to oversee the operation. Darned if Spider-Man doesn't turn up there, too, insisting on flying the plane. We've got to find out who it is in that costume! We start listing suspects... trying to see who isn't around whenever "Spider-Man" is. It has to be one of the Marvel artists in attendance pulling a fast one, Joe Rubinstein? Bill Sienkiewicz? Art Adams? Paul Smith?

Friday, August 5th — Another Brunch, then more convention appearances. There's a lot of swimming, jet-skiing, and body surfing going on in between things though. A few editors take the trolley to Tijuana for a while. That night there's a huge, official Marvel Comics party held in my suite. It expands to take up the whole fourth floor of the hotel.

Saturday, August 6th — Another brunch, more convention activities, more quick trips to the beach, more parties.

Sunday, August 7th — The penultimate brunch in San Diego. The convention winds down. We're pretty wound down, too, but "Spider-Man's" identity is secret no longer! Bill Sienkiewicz tips his hand — while wearing the costume, in the hotel lobby, he signs an autograph for a fan in the hotel lobby. Spider-Man. Aha!

Monday, August 8th — The last brunch, and on to Los Angeles!

I'd love to tell you about that leg of the trip — especially about the incident at Disneyland — but we're out of space. Next month!

Hang in there!

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

THE UPPER ECH

THE GENERIC COMIC — Featuring a super hero and a super villain in an exciting story as only A WRITER and A PENCILER could bring it to you. And with AN INKER doing the inking, you know you're in for a treat! (And if that doesn't intrigue you, we don't know what will.) Only from Marvel!

THOR #342 — If you haven't read THOR lately, you haven't read THOR! With WALT SIMONSON at the helm, this is just becoming Marvel's hottest and most popular series! In this issue, Walt reveals a super power of Thor's we've never seen before. Plus, special guest inker TERRY AUSTIN. Need we say more?

DR. STRANGE #64 — A tale of the weird and the wonderful by ANN MODICCI and newcomer TONY SALMONS, exploring the age-old question: magic and art, where does one end and the other begin? An intriguing question — one to ponder in the luxury of your home — but the answer becomes a matter of life and death for Dr. Strange as he battles the bizarre creations of a deranged artist's mind! Don't miss "Artrage!"

- ☐ **THE THING #10**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #205**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #14**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #31**
- ☐ **HERCULES #2**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #15** — The Book of Weapons and Hardware.
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE SPECIAL EDITION #2** — Re-presenting Strange Tales #5's 133-135 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #262**
- ☐ **THOR #342**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #16**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #64**
- ☐ **U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #9**
- ☐ **X-MEN/MICRONAUTS (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **THE GENERIC COMIC #1**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL EDITION #1** — Re-presenting the classic FF Annual #1, by STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
- ☐ **TARZAN OF THE APES (Limited Series) #1**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #296**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #342**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #157**
- ☐ **X-MEN #180**
- ☐ **ROM #68**

- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #162** — Reprinting "Spider-Man Goes Mad," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from Amazing Spider-Man #24
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #104**
- ☐ **Q.I. JOE #22**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #265**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #140** — Spider-Man and the Black Widow
- ☐ **IRON MAN #181**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #88**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #113**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #16**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #8**
- ☐ **JACK OF HEARTS (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #44** — "What if the Hulk Went Berserk?"
- ☐ **ELEKTRA SAGA (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **THE A-TEAM (Limited Series) #2** — Marvel's adaptation of the TV smash!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION #5** — Concluding the very first Micronauts saga, by BILL MANTLO and MICHAEL GOLDEN
- ☐ **MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #88**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #13**
- ☐ **EMC COMICS**
- ☐ **COYOTE #4**

"IN ADDITION, OUR COUNTRY AND OTHER NATIONS AS WELL, ARE FORTUNATE IN THAT WE CAN CALL UPON THE SERVICES OF A NUMBER OF SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS TO COMBAT THIS ALIEN INVASION."



SO, WHILE THE DANGER MAY SEEM GRAVE, OUR POSITION IS FAR FROM HOPELESS...



...NOT THE LEAST BECAUSE WE HAVE ACQUIRED AN ALLY IN OUR WAR WHO HAS FOUGHT THESE EVIL ALIENS FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES NOW.

"STILL, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, A RECENT ATTEMPT TO CONTACT A NUMBER OF AMERICA'S OWN SUPER-HEROES HAS FAILED. THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AVENGERS AND OTHERS SEEM TO HAVE SIMPLY VANISHED.*



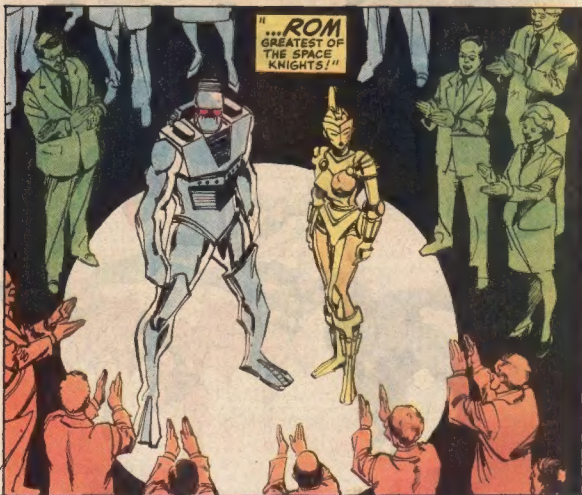
"WHETHER OR NOT
PIRE WRAITHS ARE
INVOLVED IN THIS,
IS UNKNOWN. THE
F.B.I. IS MAKING
A THOROUGH
INVESTIGATION
CURRENTLY.

*FOR DETAILS, SEE THE
SECRET-WAR MAXI-SERIES—
RALPH.

MEANWHILE, ROM AND HIS COMPANION, A WOMAN OF OUR OWN WORLD WHO HAS RELINQUISHED HER HUMANITY TO GAIN POWER ENOUGH TO COMBAT THE ENEMY-- HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO THE DEFENSE OF OUR WORLD.



THUS, I DECLARE THAT, FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, EARTH IS AT WAR WITH ~~WORTHLESS~~ IT IS A WAR WE WILL WIN BY VIRTUE OF OUR COURAGE, OUR FORCE OF ARMS, THE GRACE OF GOD, AND THE ASSISTANCE OF...



SOME SPEECH, HUH, GENERAL? BUT, NOW THAT THE TALKIN'S OVER--



-- THE FIGHTIN' STARTS!